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USFJ policy letter seeks culture that rejects misconduct

By Marine Corps Master Sgt. Terence Peck
 U.S. Forces-Japan Public Affairs

Led by the commander of U.S. Forces-Japan, the five top-ranking U.S. military commanders for American personnel in Japan jointly issued USFJ Policy Letter 1.

This new policy reaffirms the standard of unwavering professionalism for American servicemembers, civilians and their families serving in Japan. It also directs a range of actions to stem future incidents of criminal misconduct.

Senior U.S. State Department and military representatives in Japan met in a candid closed-door session to address the potential damage to the U.S.-Japan alliance by individual acts of misconduct.

The U.S. Ambassador to Japan, J. Thomas Schieffer, and the commander of USFJ, Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright, led a discussion with component commanders and senior enlisted leaders. The purpose was to adopt a unified strategy designed to prevent future incidents.

The new letter was signed by General Wright and the senior commanders of Army, Navy, and Marines Corps and Air Force personnel in Japan.

"The crime rate of U.S. service members in Japan is very low by any objective measure and has decreased significantly in recent years, however, that's not the point," said Ambassador Schieffer. "A single criminal incident can undermine our relationship with our Japanese neighbors and security partners."

General Wright said, "We can neither afford nor tolerate anything less than the highest level of professionalism by our personnel in Japan. Unwavering professionalism is our non-negotiable standard."

In addition, the letter reminds personnel that they represent the United States at all times through their conduct and charges everyone with the responsibility to look out for others even as they ensure their own professional conduct.

The policy also directs improved incident reporting and analysis to facilitate U.S. coordination with Japanese law enforcement and government officials.

For more information about USFJ and the policy letter, visit <http://usfj.mil/>.

SECAF: Yokota is vision of future, 'linchpin'

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
 Editor

The highest-ranking civilian in the Air Force visited Yokota Air Base March 24.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne spent time meeting with and talking to Airmen here as part of his Pacific Air Forces tour which also included Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii; Andersen AFB, Guam; Kunsan Air Base, South Korea; Misawa and Kadena AB, Japan.

During an "all call," which was open to the entire base community at the Taiyo Recreation Center, the secretary explained the importance of Yokota's mission in maintaining regional stability.

"As I look and I listen around Yokota, I realize that this base is one of our most joint facilities, because it hosts the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, and soon ... the Japanese Air Self Defense Forces," said Secretary Wynne. "There is a unique mission here, and it is a vision of the future joint team that our military is moving toward."

The secretary sees the base as a "linchpin" to the peace and prosperity of the Western Pacific region throughout the 21st century, and he encouraged Airmen that their presence and work are greatly appreciated.

"The Airmen stationed here have a profound effect across this entire region," he said. "I have seen firsthand the appreciation that nations and people across all of Asia have for our military men and women."

Secretary Wynne also encouraged Airmen here to embrace the opportunities that come with being stationed overseas.

"All Airmen here are U.S. diplomats," he explained. "Embrace the diversity and cul-



photo by Yasuo Osakabe

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Wynne answers question from the enlisted and officer ranks stationed here during an "all call" at the Taiyo Recreation Center.

ture, and be responsible and accountable. Our Airmen are extremely important to the alliance that we enjoy with our Japanese hosts."

The secretary praised the Airmen and their families for the sacrifices that they frequently make to Air Expeditionary Forces deployments and humanitarian relief operations.

"We have been in conflicts for many years now, but we are taking advantage of the wisdom and planning of former Air Force leaders who created the AEF concept," he said.

"This concept has helped to provide a predictable and effective way for Airmen to share the burden equally," the secretary explained. "In addition, Airmen and their families should take advantage of the excellent support organizations that are available to them."

Tech Sgt. Scott Pacheco, 374th Dental Squadron, was surprised with a STEP (Stripes To Excellent Performers) promotion during the all call.

"It was a huge surprise to me," said Sergeant Pacheco. "I usually have pretty good 'intel' of what's going on, but this time I had no idea. It was a tremendous honor to be promoted by the Secretary of the Air Force and the wing commander in front of the Yokota community."

During his visit, the secretary toured the 374th Maintenance Squadron's Engine Regional Repair Center, met with C-130, C-21 and UH-1 aircrews, and members of the Yokota Fire Department and the 374th Security Forces Squadron.

Military Personnel Flight undergoes transformation

Airmen across service learning how to take care of own personnel needs via internet, face-to-face appointments still available

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As of today, the way Yokota and the rest of the Air Force conduct personnel business will be changing drastically.

The new way of business is called the Personnel Services Delivery and it will go into effect here at Yokota as of Saturday, because of the time difference between here and the Air Force Personnel Center.

For active duty personnel, regular personnel functions will no longer be conducted at the military personnel flight, but will

be conducted via Web sites.

All transactions relating to accessions, Board of Correction of Military Records, evaluation appeals, duty history, duty status, retirements, retraining, or classification will need to be conducted via the virtual MPF.

According to Maj. Sara Custer, 374th Military Personnel Flight commander, the goal of PSD is to provide better customer service with 24 hour, 7 days-a-week accessibility for Airmen to conduct via Web sites and an enhanced contact center.

"While we are changing, we are still here to serve the custom-

ers," said Senior Master Sgt. Carolyn Henriques, 374th Airlift Wing MPF superintendent.

According to the Air Force Personnel Center there are three reasons why PSD is necessary for today's military.

The first reason is the need for the Air Force to use more technology to free up limited resources. Second, the operations tempo requires many members to work at all times of the day from diverse locations. Third, surveys have shown Airmen are increasingly comfortable with the Web and want to be able to take care of their business online.

"The goal of AFPC is to have Airmen accomplish 85 percent of personnel actions via Web-based applications," said Major Custer. "There will still be face-to-face

contact to assist as necessary, but the reality is you will be using Web applications more and going to the MPF less. It's not that different from going to the ATM as opposed to having a bank teller."

"The bottom line is this: The personnelists remaining at the base will teach the Airmen how to fish as opposed to providing the fish."

The new hours for the MPF are Monday through Friday appointment only at customer service from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., and walk-ins from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The rest of the MPF will operate Monday through Thursday walk-ins from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday walk-ins are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Road tax season arrives alongside spring, cherry blossoms

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The cherry blossoms are not the only sign that spring has arrived.

Japanese road tax season comes along with it for all SOFA (Status Of Forces Agreement) members across the Kanto Plain.

Members who own a vehicle must pay the tax by May 31, or they may lose their driving privileges or vehicle registration privileges, according to 374th Security Forces Squadron officials.

The squadron is hosting a registration week at the Yujo Community Center April 17 to 21 for members' convenience.

Volunteers will be available from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. to complete members' road taxes during the week. Mini-cars and motorcycles can register on April 17 or 18 only.

"To make the process as smooth as possible, people should bring with their vehicles' Japanese Inspection Certificate, military registration, 2004 road tax receipt, liability insurance policy, and Japanese Compulsory Insurance certificate," said Master Sgt. Tim Fearney, base pass and registration office.

Motorcycle and mini-car owners must report to the Fussa or Murayama City Hall in person to pay for their road tax. The owners then take the receipt and vehicle infor-

mation to the base pass and registration office to complete the road tax registration process.

Members can also opt to pay at an off-base bank or post office if they own vehicles other than a motorcycle or mini-car. Members must pick up a road tax application form from the pass and registration office prior to going off base to pay.

The tax must be paid in yen according to the vehicle's category, which ranges from 500 to 32,000 yen.

The following are the road tax rates for this year according to vehicle category:

⇒ 500 yen for motorcycles and scooters below 125cc;

⇒ 1,000 yen for motorcycles above 125cc;

⇒ 3,000 yen for mini-cars with 40A or 50 plates;

⇒ 7,500 yen for vehicles with 44Y, 55E, 56Y, 57Y, 58Y, 500Y or 400Y plates;

⇒ 19,000 yen for vehicles with under 4.5 liter engines and an 33Y, 33E, 88Y, 300Y, 300E, 800Y or 800E plate;

⇒ 22,000 yen for vehicles with a 4.5 engine or larger and an 33Y, 33E, 88Y, 300Y, 300E, 800Y or 800E plate;

⇒ 32,000 yen for 11Y, 11E, 100Y or 100E plates.

For more information, call the pass and registration office at 225-8932 or 225-8914, or visit Bldg. 316, room 124.

Tanabata Dancers offer 'real' Japanese experience to community



photo by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

The Tanabata Dancers perform at the Fussa City Civic Hall in October 2003. The group is seeking new members for its current summer festival season which began in earlier this month.

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

A unique base private organization is looking for community members of all ages to join its ranks.

The Tanabata Dancers, a group that performs traditional Japanese dances during the country's summer festival season, is encouraging people to experience culture here in a "real" way.

"This is an excellent way for people to get into the Japanese culture," said organization president Julie Martz. "It is so exciting to be able to put on your own yukata [summer kimono] and obi [Japanese bow], and perform alongside the Japanese people. They just go crazy when they see us out there."

The group was hit hard by the 2004 PCS (Permanent Change of Station) season, and it numbers 12 members currently.

"The Dancers are very important to the base because we build goodwill and friendship between us and the Japanese," said Ms. Martz. "It means so much to be willing to adapt to this country's traditions, and it would be a real loss to have to disband this group because of a lack of membership."

Each year the group receives numerous requests from both on-base and off-base organizations that want the Tanabata Dancers to perform at their event. In 2004, the Dancers' venues included the Friendship Festival, Fussa City Cherry Blossom and Bon Odori festivals, and Iruma and Fuchu Japanese Air Bases.

Practices are held every Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the recreation room in Tower 2085 near the Enlisted Club. A Japanese sensei, or teacher, and her daughter volunteer to teach the Dancers each week throughout the festival season. Participants learn stage and parade dances that are known both nationally and locally.

"The dances are not hard at all," said Ms. Martz. "From small children to older adults, everyone can learn to do them. It is a wonderful feeling to perform right beside the Japanese people and honor their culture."

Members of the group pay a \$30 annual fee and children age 12 and under pay \$15. Participants must also pay \$200 for a complete Tanabata outfit that

includes a summer kimono, shoes, hair pieces, undergarments, and a Japanese bow known as an obi.

"These are specially tailored to each individual," she explained. "It is a very personal and traditional investment for me personally because we are taught how to put it on properly and it is specially made for each person. It is truly an investment."

The Tanabata Dancers' season runs from March to November, with their final performance usually around Halloween. The group ends each season with a trip to an onsen, or Japanese bath house, at Mt. Fuji to both perform and relax, said Ms. Martz.

For more information, call Ms. Martz at 042-553-5926 or e-mail tanabata_dancers@hotmail.com.

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

WWII Airman receives belated Purple Heart: TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFPN) – March 21 was a special day for one Airman. It was the day that he received his Purple Heart Medal.

Mr. Leo Bach received his medal after suffering injuries to his right leg and back after bailing out of his B-17 Flying Fortress nearly 62 years ago, along with the WWII victory medal and Prisoner of War medal.

Air Force pilot becomes one of newest astronauts: SAN ANTONIO – A former F-22A Raptor test pilot has now joined the ranks of an even more elite group of pilots. Lt. Col. James Dutton became an astronaut with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration following his graduation in February.

"I wanted to be an astronaut when I joined the Air Force," he said.

Nihon-go now

⇒ **Japan is located in the Pacific Ocean.**

Nihon wa taiheiyou ni ichi shite imasu.
(nee-hon wah tah-e-heh-e-yoo nee e-chee shee-teh e-mah-soo.)

⇒ **Japan is a small country.**

Nihon wa chiisai kuni desu.
(nee-hon wah chee-sah-ahee koo-nee dess.)

AD



courtesy photo

A slice of history?

A Japanese employee from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron removes a monument with a time capsule inside it. Built in 1976, the monument is located on the south side of the Samurai Fitness Center and is to be opened July 4, 2026. The base's commander and the Fussa City mayor at that time have their names engraved on the monument. It was moved due to the upcoming construction of the new fitness annex adjacent to the current center.

Local Boy Scouts chapter provides chances for volunteers, children at the same time

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The Boy Scouts of America need the help of a few good people at Yokota and this weekend is the prime opportunity to see exactly what the scouts have to offer here at Yokota.

The scouts will be hosting the district Pinewood Derby race at the Taiyo Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the Cub Scouts Fun Day at Snyder Field.

There will be four other packs from Japan participating along with their Japanese scouting counterparts, the Kiose Scouts.

"If a person is even remotely interested in the Boy Scouts, this is the day to come out and find out more," said Christine Hunkins, committee chairperson for Pack 49. "There are all kinds of ways to help out."

One of the things Ms. Hunkins said the scouts need is help with transportation.

She said a person who is familiar with Japan and could drive a 15 passenger van would help them get to events throughout the Kanto Plain with other American scouts but also the Kiose Scouts. The main thing she says is there are multiple ways of helping out the scouts.

"You don't have to have kids to work with the scouts," said Mr. Carl Frentz, district commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America. "Some people just do it because they like working with children."

According to Ms. Hunkins the scouts are not just for the Americans on base either.

"We have three or four Japanese kids whose parents wanted them to be involved with the American scouts," she said.

According to the Boy Scouts of America, their purpose is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. The organization was formed in 1910 and chartered by the U.S. Congress by 1916, and currently boasts more than three million youth and more than one million adult volunteers.

For more information on the Boy Scouts call Christine Hunkins at 227-3860 or email hunkfam@yahoo.com.

Scam targets Thrift Savings Plan participants

By Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) —Participants, as well as some non-participants, in the Thrift Savings Plan are targets of a "phishing" scam.

Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, said phishing is an "attempt to get recipients of the unsolicited e-mail to compromise themselves by giving up their personal financial information."

The TSP administrators never requests personal or financial information via e-mail, he said.

"Do not respond to unsolicited e-mail, and never give out information of a personal nature (through)

unsolicited e-mails," he said.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board alerted Thrift Savings Plan coordinators to the scam in a March 17 memo, the day after the scam was discovered. The memo described it as an unsolicited e-mail with a link to a bogus Web site appearing to be the thrift plan's account-access site.

The bogus site asks for a recipient's social security and Thrift Savings Plan personal identification numbers. Entering this information takes the user to another screen where they are asked for financial information, including a credit card number, he said, adding that this information can be used to steal an person's identity.

As long as participants have not

responded to this scam e-mail, their accounts have not been compromised, investment board officials wrote in the memo. Those who did respond should contact their financial institutions immediately for guidance. They should also call the Thrift Savings Plan at (877) 968-3778 and ask to have their account access blocked.

Phishing e-mails generally appear to be from a business or organization the recipient may deal with, according to a Federal Trade Commission Consumer Alert issued in June 2005. It may request that the recipient update, validate or confirm account information, the alert said.

Participants are encouraged not to attempt to access their accounts by clicking links offered in any e-mail.

AD

Walk a mile in military doctor's shoes

By Lt. Col. William Thomas, Jr.
374th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

When my wife was a nurse working with the Family Advocacy program at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, she overheard a disgruntled military member comment, "Those doctors over there are only in the military because they couldn't pass medical school!"

She had to call him on that one.

Our Medical Group's clinical staff consists of physicians, dentists, optometrists, physician assistants, nurse anesthetists, psychologists, social workers, nurse practitioners, mid-wives, physical therapists and audiologists. All of these clinical professionals are fully trained at the same institutions our civilian counterparts attend, or a military school or training program accredited by a civilian oversight agency. They must be licensed and in compliance with all regulations that apply to private practice clinicians in the same specialty.

Having spent so many years in medical education, we often take it for granted the patients we treat understand what qualifications are needed to provide patient care.

In honor of Doctor's Day, which was recognized Thursday, let me tell you some more about our physicians and the training we

have completed – you may be surprised.

Competition to get into medical school begins in the first years of college. In general, students with less than a 3.5 grade point average need not even bother applying. After finishing a college degree, medical school itself is a great hurdle that requires at least four years of dedicated study and long hours just to complete. At the conclusion of that training, the graduate is officially hooded as a physician and may use the initials M.D. (medical doctor) or D.O. (doctor of osteopathy) after their name. But they still can't get a license to practice medicine.

Licensure is granted by the state in which you practice and is a legal document that says you follow the laws of the state and abide by their regulations with regard to continuing education, professional conduct and prescribing practices.

In order to be licensed, most states require the physician complete another full year of supervised training. The Air Force requires all physicians maintain an unrestricted, valid license at all times in order to practice in an Air Force clinic or hospital.

After internship, at which time the physician qualifies for a license, doctors may continue their education in a residency program for a certain specialty.

Residency training programs take anywhere from three to five years to complete depending on the specialty – three for family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, emergency medicine and psychiatry; four for radiology, surgery, gynecology, anesthesia or orthopedics. After the residency, two or more years of training, called a fellowship, can be added to sub-specialize in a certain area. Much longer training is required for sub-specialties like thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, or invasive cardiology.

After completion of this level of training, physicians may then be eligible for certification by the board of medical examiners for their sub-specialty. Surgical specialists are not eligible to sit for their board examinations until after a period of one or two years during which time they "collect cases" of various types to submit with their application to demonstrate their competence in those procedures.

Board certification is the culmination of these many years of work, and it is a formal acknowledgement of completed education and competence in that specialty. The further designation as a Fellow of the College of an individual's specialty is an honor granted to physicians who are very experienced, outstanding performers in their field and

maintain the highest level of ethical conduct, continuing education and excellence in clinical practice.

Here we have many physicians, all of whom are fully licensed. Many of these physicians have completed a residency, some of them have completed two residencies, and half of those are board certified. A few of your physicians are board certified in two specialties, and more have received the additional honor of being designated as a Fellow in their specialty.

Your physicians here participate in continuing education programs to learn about new trends in their field. These classes are required to maintain a state license.

Additionally, your doctors review and re-review each other's work to ensure you are getting the best possible medical care.

Doctor's Day has been a nationally recognized observance since 1958 when Congress set aside March 30 to annually honor our nation's physicians.

When you see your physicians and providers – and their families – around on base, thank them all for their support and commitment to long years of training and long hours of hard work. It is their dedication to patient care that helps to make America's standard of living the highest in the world.

Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Clifton Cole
374th Mission Support Group

A definition of leadership is the art of influencing and directing people to accomplish the mission.

Some people ask, "Where have the good leaders gone?"

We have read books about leadership and many took on the leadership style of others. Does leadership start while we are young, or do we have to wait until we are grown to become leaders? Some leaders attribute their leadership abilities to their home life and the discipline instilled in them and others learned the art some other way. I am not trying to start a debate, but I am sure many of you will say the leadership you had growing up made you what you are today.

Growing up as a young man, I knew who was in charge – it was my parents. I looked for guidance and leadership from them. They did not fail to provide all the necessities I needed to make it in life. Like many of you, the adults in my life provided necessary leadership and helped to charter my future.

Many of you heard this statement from your parents: "Be a leader, not a follower."

Although the military taught us followership, many of us listened to our parents' words and are motivated to be leaders.

Our lessons in leadership continued as we entered the school system. Teachers provided educational opportunities, and many took the time to teach us to be leaders in society. When we think back to the teachers who have touched our lives, it is easy to see many of them led by example.

Our leadership lessons continued when we joined the military. They were taught in basic training and other military schools we attended. I don't know about you, but I was told that along with looking for a supply journeyman the military was also looking for a leader.

There are so many opportunities for us to lead in the military. We are surrounded by unit leaders at basic training, professional military training, and First Term Airman Centers. Each one of them contributes to the development of our leaders.

A good example of leading outside the workplace is when you are a wingman. As a wingman, you must step up to your leadership role, regardless of rank. When you do, positive things will start happening and keep happening.

Now, throughout my career, I do not recall my instructors or supervisors asking the question, "Who wants to be a leader?" As members of the military we are all expected to be leaders from a young noncommissioned officer leading a flight of basic trainees to an Airman involved in the squadron sponsorship program. Experienced leaders provide the training and our young Airmen step forward and provide the required leadership. Remember, the military relies on work center trainers and professional military education to form leaders throughout our career.

As you know, our enlisted Airmen's first professional military education experience is the Airman Leadership School. ALS passes on leadership tools senior airmen can put into their toolbox to become effective leaders. As Airmen are promoted they move on to more academies and courses.

Let's not worry about where all the good leaders have gone. There are many leaders right here. It is up to each leader to invest in and continue to train our future leaders.

Remember these words from retired Army Gen. Colin Powell, "The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems, is the day you have stopped leading them."



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DUI Prevention

March 22 – March 28	0
Total DUIs in March	0
Total in 2006	3

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

372nd Training Squadron offers a few pointers



photo by Capt. Ben Alumbaugh

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Hensley helps Senior Airman Francisco Anglin, 374th Maintenance Squadron, understand the finer points of a C-130 engine during a training session. Sergeant Hensley is in charge of engine and propellers training for the 372nd Training Squadron, an Air Education and Training Command associate unit at Yokota.

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The five members of the 372nd Training Squadron Detachment 15 at Yokota play an integral role in the 374th Airlift Wing being the premier airlift hub of the Western Pacific.

The 372nd is one of a number of associate units here at Yokota helping the Samurai warriors take care of business in fact.

The unit falls under the 982nd Training Group from the 82nd Training Wing out of Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. The five members of the 372nd are responsible for follow on training for the 374th Maintenance Squadron in engine and propellers, aerospace ground equipment,

crew chief and guidance control.

The unit is invaluable to Yokota, because without the trainers and their students it would be a lot harder to put planes in the air.

On average the 372nd teaches about 300 students per year with 23 different classes offered ranging anywhere from two days to three weeks.

"We are here to train the warfighters," said Master Sgt. Leland Alexander, 372nd TRS Detachment 15 chief.

"My job as a noncommissioned officer on the flight line is to train Airmen, but sometimes there isn't enough time to do it thoroughly on the flight line," said Tech. Sgt. Aaron Hensley, 372nd engine and propellers trainer. "When students come in here, I am able to take the time to make sure they

fully understand what they need to know."

"Some of the training is required," he said. "But for the most part our classes are requested through the maintenance operations squadron. Our classes help everyone from the Airmen who is new to seasoned noncommissioned officers."

"I believe having us here definitely helps," said Sergeant Alexander. "We can stay current and make changes quickly by what is going on here. For example, we will be including some new training since Yokota is getting C-130H models."

"Another way we provide value is just through being here, so there's little to no money spent or time spent flying to and from the states," said Sergeant Hensley. "Since we are here we can be a bit flexible too with the

unit if the students need to assist in real world situations. We work with the unit, so we can ensure the Airmen get what they need."

The 372nd is based out of Bldg. 400 on the main part of the base and has four classrooms.

The unit was stood up in the late 1990s and is part of Air Education and Training Command.

"Sometimes it's a bit of a headache being part of a different command and having such a time difference between us and our 'home unit' back in the states," said Sergeant Hensley.

"But at the same time it's very rewarding to be in this position and to be able to train people the right way to help get the planes up in the air."

AD

Off base

Fussa Sakura Festival: The cherry blossoms along the Tama River between Nagata Bridge and Mutsumi Bridge will be celebrated March 31 to April 9 with Japanese music, dances, parades, taiko drum performances and more.

Hamarikyū Onshi Teien: This traditional Japanese garden dating back to the Edo Period will be in full bloom and lighted April 1 to 16 to celebrate its 60th anniversary under the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. It is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and it is a 15-minute walk from the JR Yamanote Line's Shinbashi Station. The cost is 300 yen for adults.

Hino Motor, Inc., Sakura Festival: This one-day festival April 8 will feature stage performances, food and game booths, and vehicle demonstrations from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is cancelled if it rains. The company is a 15-minute walk from JR Ome Line's Hamura Station.

Yagumo Jinja Spring Festival: This is a shrine festival located at Hamura Dam where they are paraded then placed into the dam's water. The festival is April 8 and 9. It is located near the JR Ome Line's Hamura Station.

Jazz concert: The Hamura Lifelong Study Center is hosting a jazz concert by a local musician April 8 beginning at 6:30 p.m. It is a 15-minute walk from the JR Ome Line's Hamura Station. The cost is 500 yen.

Dance Dance Dance 2006: The Yutorogi Dance-Off is April 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Yutorogi Main Hall in Hamura City. Applications are now being accepted. Only the first 30 applicants will be accepted. Prizes include 50,000 yen for the contest champion. Dance styles include hip-hop, break dancing, free style and others. For more information, send a fax to Ms. Chiba at 042-570-6422.

On base

Movies

Today – Big Momma's House 2, PG -13, 7 p.m.; *V for Vendetta*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – Big Momma's

House 2, PG -13, 2 p.m.; *Underworld: Evolution*, R, 7 p.m.; *V for Vendetta*, R, 9:30 p.m. (adults only)

Sunday – Hoodwinked, PG, 2 p.m.; *V for Vendetta*, R, 7 p.m.

Monday – V for Vendetta, R, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – Underworld: Evolution, R, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – V for Vendetta, R, 7 p.m.

Thursday – Big Momma's House 2, PG-13, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Yokota Players

Volunteers are needed to help strike the set of "Annie Jr." on Sunday at noon. Send an e-mail to yokota_players@yahoo.com.

New hours

The Civilian Personnel Flight is open 7:30 to 3 p.m. for walk-in and appointment customer service. Only appointments are taken from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Call 225-3913.

Hospital renovations

In preparation for the renovation of the hospital's second floor, the Multispecialty/Same Day Surgery Unit will relocate from the second floor to the third floor April 8. The unit will be co-located with the Obstetric Unit.

Life Skills

Life Skills will be located on the second floor of the Dental Clinic, Bldg. 1585, starting today. The center will be open in its new location on Monday. Call 225-3566.

FMO closure

The Furnishings Management Office will be closed from Monday to April 7. Services will resume on April 10. Call 225-9114 for more information.

Volunteers needed

Yokota East Elementary School needs volunteers April 26

and 27 during its annual field day. Call 225-5503.

Bazaar

The annual Yokota Officers' Spouses' Club* Asian bazaar is April 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hangar 15. Call 227-5009.

Special Ops briefing

A Special Forces recruiting briefing is scheduled for Thursday at 2 p.m. at the base theater. The team is looking for numerous career fields to be filled including information management, logistics planning, medical services, air crew life support and air transportation management.

Space A travel

Contact the AMC passenger terminal at 225-5661 or 225-5662 for information about travel during spring break.

Father-daughter dance

The dance will be held at the Enlisted Club Ballroom April 29 from 6 to 9 p.m. E-mail fdance2006@yahoo.com.

Wing briefing team

Auditions for the 374th Airlift Wing briefing team will be held April 11. Call 225-5075.

Taiyo renovations

The Taiyo Recreation Center is partially closed Monday through mid-August while it is renovated. The thrift shop and some classrooms will remain open during the renovations. Call 225-6955.

Base assessment

The 374th Airlift Wing's Information Assurance Office is conducting a Telecommunications Monitoring and Assessment through May. This assessment is to certify telecommunications here are in compliance with Department of Defense regulations. All base personnel and units here and attached to Yokota may experience spot inspections during April. Call 225-9000.

Samurai Warriors



of the Week



Master Sgt. Marvin Marquez

Master Sgt. Marvin Marquez, 374th Security Forces Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for demonstrating a sense of justice and honesty, courage and self control, and sympathy toward all people he protects.

He is the day-shift flight sergeant. He leads more than 50 troops and civilian guards. He was praised by Pacific Air Forces Inspector General Team during the Operational Readiness Inspection for brilliantly handling several exercises and real-world incidents which occurred at the same time. Sergeant Marquez was one of the ten Airmen personally coined by the IG as a top outstanding performer at the ORI outbriefing.

Band competition

The Band of the Pacific-Asia is hosting its annual Young Artists Competition April 22 beginning at 9 a.m. Applications are available at the Yokota Middle and High Schools. Applications must be turned in by Monday.

Hip Hop

The base chapel is hosting the "Attitude Determines Altitude" Outreach Conference about hip-hop music featuring G. Craig Lewis at the east chapel April 7 at 7 p.m., and April 8 at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. The event is open to the community. Call 225-7009.

Yokota Singles

All Yokota singles are invited to a free dinner and Bible study beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. A free coffee and snack bar is also open every Friday from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. for all singles in the same building.

Tax center

The base tax center is open

Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Walk-ins filing 1040EZs are welcome Mondays through Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. All other filers must call for an appointment. Call 225-4926.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel
Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel
Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I believe in higher education. You know, 6’8”, 6’9”, 6’10”.”

David Gaines,
San Diego State
basketball coach

Samurai Sports Day: This annual event is scheduled for May 25. Squadron sports representatives are invited to a sports day meeting Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Enlisted Club to discuss the day’s details. Call 225-8881.

Tai Chi: Free Tai Chi classes are held at the Yokota East Elementary School gym Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Call 227-3648.

Circuit training: The Samurai Fitness Center offers “Morning Madness” circuit training beginning Tuesday from 6 to 7 a.m. The class is every Tuesday and Thursday. Call 225-8322 or 225-8881.

Fit Mom: The base Natatorium offers a “Fit Mom” class for mothers-to-be beginning April 8. The workout includes underwater walking, hydra-circuits, swimming and more. Call 225-8322 or 225-6133.

Karate: Free karate lessons are offered for ages six and older in the Natatorium’s aerobics room Saturdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Call 225-5880.

Half-marathon: Camp Zama is hosting a half-marathon, 5K and children’s race at Sagami Depot April 23. Call 263-5995.

Submissions: Send sports stories, photos, stats and more to the newspaper staff for consideration at: fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil.

730th AMS dawg wins medal in Shooto tournament

Senior airman compares martial art to chess match, emphasizes discipline

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Filiberto Clemente, a computer systems administrator from the 730th Air Mobility Squadron, came to Japan with a boxing background and will leave as a full contact Shooto fighter with a silver medal.

The Airman recently placed second in the amateur light heavy-weight division at the All-Japan Shooto Grappling tournament in Tokyo featuring fighters from across the globe Feb. 21. The Airman lost to the two-time defending champion in his category.

Airman Clemente is the oldest of five boys and originally got into boxing because of his grandfather, who trains boxers to this day.

“I wanted to follow in my grandfather’s footsteps,” said the Airman. “Although once I got to Japan and saw Shooto, I knew this was what I wanted to do.”

Airman Clemente has been doing Shooto for two and half years. He normally trains up to six nights a week for three to five hours.

Shooto was developed in the early 1980s in Japan as a mixed martial arts form of sport. Fighters may punch, kick, use knee strikes, perform throws, sweeps, takedowns, grappling, joint locks and choke holds.

According to ShootoAmericas, some bouts are fast and furious, lasting just moments – ending with a flurry of strikes or with a slick submission hold – while other bouts may be more strategic and methodical ending when a competitor out maneuvers his opponent. There can be a Knock-Out as in boxing (where a 10-count is applied), or a choke-hold/joint-lock that forces a competitor to “tap-out” (literally tapping his hand on the mat several times – the equivalent of saying “uncle”).



courtesy photo

Senior Airman Filiberto Clemente, 730th Air Mobility Squadron, puts an arm bar on his training partner at the Kaminari Dojo in Tokyo. He has been participating in Shooto for two and a half years. The Airman took second place in a grappling tournament in Tokyo Feb. 21.

Even though the sport is very physical and seem violent to observers, Airman Clemente is quick to point out the sport is not about anger and trying to hurt someone.

“It’s based on discipline and it’s similar to a chess match,” said Airman Clemente. “I have learned self control and how to observe people by participating

in Shooto.”

Not only has Shooto provided the Airman a chance to participate in a sport he loves, he has gotten the opportunity to travel for training and for competition.

“I hope to come back to Japan after my assignment in the states,” the Airman said. “I would like compete professionally one day.”

General proves he has ‘Wright’ stuff

By Marine Corps. Master Sgt. Terence Peck
U.S. Forces-Japan Public Affairs

“Ensuring we’re ‘fit to fight’ is one of our top responsibilities as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and military civilians,” said Lt. Gen. Bruce “Orville” Wright, commander of U.S.-Forces Japan. “Being in shape also helps us keep the fired-up mindset we need to accomplish our mission.”

General Wright leads by example. The commander recently marked his 55th birthday by achieving another rating of “Excellent” on his annual Air Force fitness test.

“If an ‘old guy’ like me can stay in shape, I know our young people are up to the challenge,” he said.

“Staying combat-ready means always making time for a work-out,” continued General Wright. “Rain or shine, TDY or at home station—it’s ‘mission-essential’ that we build and maintain high levels of fitness.”

General Wright’s fitness program includes weight-lifting, running, racquetball, and golf. He is a regular at the 5th Air Force unit runs, and likes to include work-outs with his wife, Kerri, who is also a regular at the gym.

The general took command of USFJ and 5th Air Force in February 2005.



photo by Airman 1st Class John Albea

Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright, U.S. Forces-Japan and 5th Air Force commander, exercises at the fitness center here. He recently earned an excellent on the Air Force physical training test.

AD